

for deportation under his administration. The fear is compounded because DREAMers trusted the government with their home and work addresses, school information, family details, and other personally identifiable information.

My office has received hundreds of calls and emails from Californians who have been admitted to the program, their families and friends, as well as others who support DACA because they have seen the benefit to their communities. I would like to share just some of the feedback I have received. A professor from the University of San Francisco shared that a student sobbed in her arms in the first class after Election Day. And a wife from Forest Lake feared that her husband's status would be revoked and their family could be separated.

She wrote, "Under a Trump presidency, I, a U.S. citizen, may need to leave my home and start a new life in Mexico. Family is family, and where my husband goes, I go."

This is unacceptable and not the America I know. We can't allow whole communities in this country to live in fear.

Upon his election, President-Elect Trump said he wants to be the President for all Americans. I would urge him to meet some of these young people. He would see that DREAMers are fiercely patriotic.

He would see that, in every way that matters, DREAMers are Americans. They were educated here, they work here, they pay taxes, and they contribute to communities across America.

And he would see that they want to be accepted and integrated into American society.

Unequivocally stating that he will not overturn DACA and will not target DREAMers for deportation would send a strong message that President-Elect Trump is serious about turning the page from the toxic campaign rhetoric and being a President for all Americans.

In the event that President-Elect Trump doesn't change course, Senators DICK DURBIN and LINDSEY GRAHAM have committed to introducing legislation to extend deferred action status for those who currently have it.

I will join this effort. I want to be crystal clear: this Senator will not sit by and do nothing if these young people are targeted for deportation.

We have a moral obligation to do all we can to shield the DREAMers from deportation and keep their families together. This is not a matter of politics. This is about what is right as Americans and human beings.

Denisse, Oscar, and Seung deserve the opportunity to earn their medical degrees. Jamie deserves the opportunity to continue teaching. They and other DREAMers deserve the opportunity to give back to their country—the United States of America—and I pledge that I will work to give them that opportunity.

NOMINATION OF MARY McELROY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I join with my fellow Senator from the State of Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE, to urge this body to confirm Mary McElroy to the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Ms. McElroy is an eminently qualified and dedicated public servant whose nomination was reported unanimously to this body by the Judiciary Committee in January of this year. She, along with 20 other district court nominees from States represented by Members from both sides of the aisle, has undergone the required rigorous vetting process and passed through committee only to have her nomination stalled on the floor of this body. We should confirm all of these nominees right now before the 114th Congress draws to a close.

I have been proud to support Mary's nomination at every step of this process. Her legal career has spanned more than 20 years from her time as a paralegal in the Rhode Island Attorney General's office while attending law school at night, clerking for Associate Justice Donald F. Shea of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, private practice, and her work in the State and Federal public defender offices. Throughout her career, she has shown the highest levels of integrity and professionalism and earned the respect and support of Rhode Island's law enforcement community.

It is a shame that this Congress may come to a close before Mary can receive what I am sure would be a very strong floor vote in favor of her confirmation. Mary has the full support of her home State and the legal community to assume this role and no assertion to the contrary has been made at any time since her nomination by the President. Should we not take up and pass her nomination this week, as we should have for all these intervening months since the action by the Judiciary Committee, it is my hope that her nomination returns to this body and is given a fair hearing swiftly in the new year.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with all of the comments made by Senator REED. With 90 judicial vacancies in our Article III courts and 32 judicial emergencies, there is no excuse for failing to confirm nominees who have been reported to the Senate floor.

Mary McElroy has undergone the nomination and committee processes with grace and dignity. These processes are intense and time-consuming. She, her husband, Bob, and their two children, have put their lives on hold in order for her to accept this responsibility as a public servant. Mary and the 20 other district court nominees awaiting a floor vote—many of whom have waited for over than a year—should be confirmed immediately.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY REID

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service of my friend, the Senator from Nevada, and the Democratic leader, HARRY REID. Senator REID's career on Capitol Hill began long before any of us.

Back in 1961, Senator REID came to work at the U.S. Capitol for the first time, though not as a Member.

While Senator REID was working his way through Law School, he spent his nights as an officer for the U.S. Capitol Police, the force that protects the U.S. Congress, in order to support his family.

Senator REID is an inspiration to us all and an incredible fighter.

By the way, I do mean that literally. We all know about his early career as a boxer.

In fact, two champion "Boxers" in the Senate are retiring at the end of this session, and we are going to miss both of them.

I also mean that HARRY REID never gives up.

When he was in high school, he walked 40 miles twice a week so he could get an education.

When he and his wife Landra fell in love—he was told by her family that they could never be together. They have had a lifelong love affair and are so proud of their five children and now their grandchildren.

From the beginning in public service, Senator REID has fought for the best interests of the people of Nevada and the American people.

In the Nevada State Assembly, he wrote Nevada's first air pollution legislation and worked on issues like consumer protection and public land usage.

As chair of the Nevada Gaming Commission, he ignored threats and cleaned up the gaming industry.

Since being elected in the Senate in 1987, Senator REID's accomplishments are almost too numerous to count. The list goes on and on. Through it all, he has never ever given up. He has fought to defend the environment of his beautiful home State.

He made strides in combatting ALS—writing legislation creating a registry that provides researchers with the critical knowledge they need to combat that terrible disease.

He has shepherded some of the most critical legislative accomplishments in the past 8 years through the Senate.

He led the effort to create and pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, saving millions of jobs. He helped our economy begin to recover.

He was responsible for making sure the ACA passed in 2010. So many people have gotten the care they have needed, their lives have been saved, by the work that he has done.

As leader of the Caucus, he has been responsible for bringing so many of us into this Chamber.

He said it himself: "You have to stand up, even when you think you're not gonna win, if you think something's right."